

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE KROGER-ALBERTSON'S MERGER

WHEREAS, access to healthy food is a significant problem for Wisconsin and 10 percent of US households experienced food insecurity in 2021, and

WHEREAS, grocery store workers who are trained in proper sanitation, food handling, and food preparation ensure the delivery of healthy and safe food in their communities, and

WHEREAS, a lack of access to safe and healthy food leads to higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases, and

WHEREAS, the South Central Federation of Labor has an interest in ensuring Wisconsin communities have access to safe and healthy food at a reasonable price and within a reasonable distance, and

WHEREAS, acquisitions and mergers in the grocery industry have become more prevalent and consolidation worsens competition resulting in layoffs and higher prices, and

WHEREAS, in October 2022, Kroger and Albertsons, two of the largest supermarket chains in the U.S., announced their intent to merge, and ¹

WHEREAS, past mergers in the grocery industry have resulted in store closures, the loss of union jobs and the bargaining power of workers, and

WHEREAS, during the pandemic, grocery stores saw record profits, and

WHEREAS, the Kroger Albertsons merger will inevitably cause worker layoffs, lower wages and job standards, raise food prices for consumers, limit access to prescription drugs, further consolidate the market for meat and poultry, destabilize the multi-employer pension system, and increase the prevalence of food deserts in lower-income and rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Policy Institute found that the Kroger and Albertsons merger will reduce the number of outside employment options available to workers and place downward pressure on grocery store workers' wages permanently reducing the wages of 776,000 grocery store workers by \$334 million.²

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO go on record opposing the merger of Kroger and Albertson's by sending a copy of this resolution to every member of Congress in the state and to each Commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission.

Submitted by UFCW Local 1473, September 18, 2023

Recommended unanimously for adoption by the SCFL Executive Board, September 18, 2023

¹ https://www.krogeralbertsons.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwnMWkBhDLARIsAHBOftr2rLkbNxRAksNrfB6E3HZowGlgjQ-gL5WX_OLF73JfgDuTWrCJIAwaAg56EALw_wcB

² <https://www.epi.org/publication/kroger-albertsons-merger/>